

Message Text

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

SIL-01 LAB-06 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-04 DRC-01 OPR-02 /110 W

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P 212255Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7838

INFO USCINCSO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8532

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: STATE OF EMERGENCY IN AREQUIPA

REF: LIMA 8513

1. AT PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, PRESIDENT VELASCO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT SUTEP TEACHERS' STRIKE IS ILLEGAL AND WILL BE DEALT WITH HARSHLY. ACCORDING TO AMERICAN REPORTER PRESENT AT CONFERENCE, VELASCO SAID "CAERA QUIEN CAERA" WHICH TRANSLATE LOOSELY AS "IF BLOOD MUST FLOW, LET IT FLOW." TOMORROW'S OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT MAY DELETE VELASCO'S GRAPHIC WARNING BUT IT ILLUSTRATES MILGOV DETERMINATION TO RESTORE ORDER IN AREQUIPA.

2. RELATIVE OF GENERAL FREYRE, WHO HAS ASSUMED POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMAND IN AREQUIPA, TOLD EMBOFF THAT FREYRE IS DETERMINED TO CRUSH DISSIDENTS.

3. CATHOLIC CHURCH LED BY BISHOP BAMBAREN HAS TRIED TO GET MILGOV TO ADOPT COMPROMISE SOLUTION BUT WITH NO SUCCESS. BAMBAREN TOLD EMBOFF'S THAT MILGOV CANNOT SOLVE SUTEP PROBLEM MILITARILY BUT MUST ADOPT POLITICAL SOLUTION.

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BAMBAREN WARNED THAT STERN MEASURES WOULD ONLY HARDEN

AREQUIPA'S DETERMINATION TO RESIST MILITARY PRESSURE.

4. KNOWLEDGEABLE CORREO DIRECTOR FIGUEROA, WHO IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH AREQUIPA, COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT THIS IS MOST SERIOUS CRISIS THAT MILGOV HAS FACED TO DATE. FIGUEROA FEARED THAT MORE VIOLENCE IS IN STORE FOR AREQUIPA AND POSSIBLY FOR CITIES LIKE PUNO BUT NOT REPEAT NOT LIMA.

5. BOTH BAMBAREN AND FIGUEROA AGREE THAT AFTER FURTHER VIOLENCE IN AREQUIPA, MILGOV WILL HAVE TO GIVE IN TO TEACHER DEMANDS THAT DECREE BE ABROGATED WHICH GIVES GOP POWER TO FIRE TEACHERS AT WILL. INDISCRIMINATE APPLICATION OF THIS DECREE PLUS JAILING OF TEACHERS PRECIPITATED AREQUIPA STRIKE, CULMINATING IN VIRTUAL STATE OF SEIGE THERE.

6. NEITHER BAMBAREN, FIGUEROA NOR OTHER EMBASSY CONTACTS BELIEVE THAT MILGOV STABILITY IS IN ANY WAY ENDANGERED AT THIS POINT.
BELCHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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